

Mortimer, Adam (MAG)

From: Unfried, Christa (SOLGEN)
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2022 6:59 PM
To: DiTommaso, Mario (SOLGEN)
Cc: Abdi, Fuad (MCM); Letang, Chris (SOLGEN)
Subject: FW: Strategic Updates - February 5, 2022

Deputy,
For your awareness / on behalf of Chris,

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-05 at 1800 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

- No new incidents to report.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022 (Ottawa)

Police Reporting

- The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) reports that a group of tractors arrived early this morning and parked facing the wrong way on a street and are refusing police requests to move. OPS further advised that convoy traffic in the downtown area is increasing but the mood of the crowd remains positive. The OPS also advised that they will be employing a strategy of "zero tolerance" regarding any acts of mischief or other criminal activity.
- Police reporting indicates approximately 7,000 people attended the protest area today, with approximately 750 counter-protestors in attendance. It is estimated approximately 500 trucks remain in the downtown core. The mood has been described as not as positive as last week.
- Police reporting indicates that counter-demonstrations in Ottawa have taken place in a manner that is sporadic and unorganized. Applications for organized counter-protests are being denied.
- Police information reports the QAnon-endorsed conspiracy theorist and self-proclaimed Queen of Canada may have made social media threats to bomb Parliament via the tunnel system. OPS is investigating. Unconfirmed social media information indicates the conspiracist is still in Ottawa (contrary to reports they had departed for Quebec yesterday) and intends to remain in Ottawa indefinitely.

Open Source Reporting

- Social media messaging indicates that convoy supporters in Ottawa are attending local businesses without wearing masks as required. In one business, they allegedly verbally abused the staff and then delivered a pseudo-legal notice to the business owner.
- Open source information notes a website identifying and publicly shaming businesses that are supporting the Ottawa blockade. The mission statement asks people to submit a photograph of any business, hotel or restaurant that is supporting the blockade.
- Media reporting indicates that GoFundMe has removed the fundraising campaign from its platform and will not distribute any further funds to Freedom Convoy organizers. The company reportedly determined that the fundraiser violated GoFundMe's terms of service that prohibit harassment and the promotion of violence. Initially, GoFundMe stated that donors could request a refund by February 19, 2022, after which the remaining funds would be distributed to credible charities as verified by GoFundMe. The company has since stated that it would automatically refund all donations.
- Freedom Convoy organizers have established another fundraiser on GiveSendGo. As of this morning it had raised almost \$620,000. Unconfirmed social media messaging at midday indicated that \$1.1M had been raised. GiveSendGo is the same platform hosting the ADOPT A TRUCKER fundraiser, which has amassed over \$200,000. An online statement indicates that GiveSendGo will forward payments directly to a fuel supplier for the convoy.
 - The Terms of Service for GiveSendGo stipulate that it can delete any fundraising campaign if it is used for any illegal purpose. Prohibited activities include those that violate any laws or regulations related to items that encourage, promote, or facilitate illegal activities; that promote hate or violence; or that are obscene.
- Media reporting indicates a group of Ottawa residents have launched a \$9.8M class-action lawsuit against protest organizers and leaves open the opportunity to name up to 60 additional individuals. An emergency order is also being sought to prohibit the use of truck horns downtown.

Toronto Convoy

Police Reporting

- Over the period 1600-1800 hours, road closures: Don Valley Pkwy South at Richmond Street; Gardiner XWY E/B at Lake Shore Blvd; Avenue Road closed from Bloor Street West to Davenport Rd; Dundas Street closed from Spadina Avenue to Yonge Street.
- There was uncorroborated information of a swastika banner on the Roncesvalles pedestrian bridge over Gardiner. Officers were unable to locate the banner. No other hate crime-related incidents have been reported thus far.
- VIP Security: OPP VIP reported that late this afternoon, Minister Elliott and family member went in a personal vehicle to run some errands. At an unknown intersection on Avenue road (exact location details to follow), she was recognized by a group of protestors. The group encircled the minister's vehicle. One of the protestors claimed that he was hit by the minister's car. A short time later, Minister Elliott was able to leave the area unharmed. The minister was not accompanied by VIP security when this incident occurred.

- TPS arrested a 22-year-old male for assault with a weapon and administering noxious substances or a smoke bomb and public mischief, on the north side of Queen's Park around 2:15 p.m.
- There were about 4,000 people in Queen's Park and nearby area. The crowd was assessed as positive. There were a fair number of families and kids in the crowd.
- There are no longer reports of trucks being stuck at Avenue/DuPont or Avenue/Davenport. The crowd had thinned out significantly at Bloor/Avenue. Approximately 15 to 20 cars and 6 dump trucks are in and around the intersection. It does not appear that they are planning to stay for the night.

Open Source Reporting

Other Potential Activity

- Local convoy actions are anticipated in jurisdictions across the province, please see event schedule for identified actions to date.
- Open source reporting notes a page for members of the commercial fishing industry issuing a call for workers in the maritime sector to protest in ports all over Canada and in shipping lanes to support the truck driver protest. A post on the page calls for an initial event on February 5, 2022.
- Open source reporting notes commercial truck drivers and supporters may conduct slow rolls on roadways near the Ambassador Bridge over the next three days, and may attempt to block the bridge on February 7, 2022.

ASSESSMENT

The protest landscape related to public health restrictions and vaccine mandates is fluid and dynamic, with solidarity demonstrations or convoys developing in many jurisdictions. There is the potential for conflict amongst individuals and groups with differing agendas at these protests, which could pose both a public safety and officer safety threat. At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest and Operation BearHug 2.0 activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

Statements from the convoy organizers regarding the cancellation of the GoFundMe campaign are indicative of a conspiratorial mindset on the part of protest organizers or participants that is likely to influence their behaviour and attitude toward the authorities. As occurred last weekend, police presence and activities are likely to be filmed.

The public exposure of businesses that are providing logistical support (accommodations, meals, etc.) to blockade organizers or participants could result in these businesses being targeted for protest or direct action by counter-protestors or other groups or individuals opposed to the blockade. This could result in increased calls for service and further strain local police resources.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 6, 2022

- **Calgary-Ottawa: Freedom's Second Wave** – Departing 1000 hours, 11511 40 St SE, Calgary; travel through Regina; Winnipeg; Thunder Bay; Sault Ste. Marie; Ottawa
- **Waterloo: True North Strong and Free** – Town Square – convoy or on foot (1200 hours)
- **Huntsville: Anti-PHO Protest** - Huntsville Place Mall to Doe Lake return (1100 hours)
- **Hearst: Hearst Convoy Support Rally** – (1300 hours – no further detail)
- **Bracebridge: Anti-PHO protest** – Memorial Park, joined by Huntsville Convoy (1400 hours)
- **Echo Bay: Horse Convoy** – horses and riders local route in support of the Freedom Convoy (1400 hours)
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800 hours)
- **Bolton: United We Stand** – local demonstration (1300 hours)
- **Sarnia: Tractor Convoy** – Depart Wyoming (1000 hours) to HWY 402, park on the highway for 1 hour; over 100 tractors
- **North Bay: Convoy** – Pinewood Park (1430 hours)
- **Lambton: Convoy** - Reeves Corner Truck Stop (1000 hours) – expecting 200-300 vehicles and 50 farm tractors. Route through London, Exmouth – ball hockey game at City Hall – farm tractors to park and block HWY 402 1400-1600 hours; exit at Hwy 40, return to City Hall and disperse.
- **Windsor: Slow Roll** – Ambassador Bridge (unconfirmed)

February 7, 2022

- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800 hours)

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